

Message Text

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CASABLANCA FOR RFA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, EFIS, MA
SUBJECT: FY 78 PROMOTIONAL PROGRAMMING: PLANNING OF COMMERCIAL
FISHING TRADE MISSION

REF

.-) FOREIGN FISHERIES LEAFLET NO. 76-1 REPORT BY USDOC
B) 76 ANTANANARIVO 1440; C) USDOC 11654

1. SUMMARY. OCEAN FISHING IN MADAGASCAR HAS DECREASED MARKEDLY
SINCE 1974. DUE TO STAFFING DIFFICULTIES, EMBASSY CANNOT HOST
ANY MAJOR TRADE PROMOTION EVENTS IN JULY OR AUGUST 1978. END
SUMMARY.

2. BEFORE ANSWERING QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL, EMBASSY WISHES TO
NOTE THAT SINCE LATE 1974, COMMERCIAL FISHING IN MADAGASCAR
HAS DECREASED TO 2,030 TONS IN 1976 FROM 18,500 TONS IN
1974. OF FOUR SHRIMP FISHING FIRMS OPERATING IN 1974, ONLY
THREE REMAIN. OF THREE TUNA FISHING COMPANIES OPERATING IN
1974, TWO CLOSED IN MID-1975 AND THE REMAINING ONE IS ALSO
REPORTED TO BE CLOSING DOWN.

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3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS REF A AS GOOD OVERALL BACKGROUND ON
MADAGASCAR'S FISHING INDUSTRY THROUGH 1974, WITH UPDATE
PROVIDED IN PARA 4 BELOW.

4. FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS KEYED TO QUESTIONS REF C:
A. I. SHRIMP FISHING COMPANIES OPERATING IN MADAGASCAR
REGISTERED 10 ADDITIONAL NEW TRAWLERS IN 1972 AND 4 IN

1974. NO ADDITIONAL SHRIMP VESSELS WERE REGISTERED IN 1975. ON THE CONTRARY, 5 SHRIMP TRAWLERS WERE SOLD IN LATE 1975 AND EARLY 1976 DUE TO TERMINATION OF ONE SHRIMP FISHING COMPANY (SIPMAD).

II. COMMERCIAL TUNA FISHING BEGAN IN 1972 WITH 3 TUNA VESSELS (LEASED). IN 1973, TUNA FISHING COMPANIES LEASED 5 SKIP-JACK POLE-AND-LINE FISHING VESSELS AND 2 FREEZER VESSELS. IN 1974, COMPANIES BOUGHT 9 ADDITIONAL NEW POLE-AND-LINE FISHING VESSELS WHICH WERE SOLD IN 1976 AS THE TWO BIGGEST TUNA COMPANIES CLOSED DOWN IN MID-1975. PURCHASE PRICE OF BOATS NOT AVAILABLE.

B. I. ANNUAL CATCH BY MODERN FLEET FOR CY 1976 (QUANTITY IN METRIC TONS): FISH OTHER THAN TUNA: 2,030; TUNA: 0; SHRIMP: 4,977; CRABS 584; LOBSTERS: 150; MOLLUSKS: 14; TURTLES LESS THAN 10 TONS.

II. IN ADDITION, TRADITIONAL CANOE FISHERMEN AND A FEW SMALL-SCALE FINFISH OPERATIONS CAUGHT 4,300 TONS OF FISH - PRIMARILY CAPITAINE (LETHRIUMS SPP), CABOT (TOMPET BLENNY), VARA VAR (LUTIANUS BOHAR), CHIEN DE MER (DOGFISH). TRADITIONAL CANOE FISHERMEN ALSO CAUGHT UNDERTERMINED QUANTITY OF CRABS, LOBSTER, & MOLLUSKS.

C. MADAGASCAR'S LAW REQUIRES THAT MADAGASCAR ENTITIES HOLD A MAJORITY OF EQUITY OF FISHING COMPANIES OPERATING IN MADAGASCAR. THEREFORE THEIR VESSELS, EVEN IF LEASED, MUST BE REGISTERED IN MADAGASCAR. AS OF DECEMBER 1976, THERE WERE 36 MADAGASCAR FLAG SHRIMP TRAWLERS OF WHICH THREE WERE STERN TRAWLERS. NO TUNA FISHING VESSELS REMAIN UNDER MADAGASCAR UNCLASSIFIED

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FLAG.

D. NO QUESTION IN REF C.

E. NO. FISHING WITHIN MADAGASCAR TERRITORIAL SEA LIMITS (50 NAUTICAL MILES) IS LIMITED TO MADAGASCAR FLAG VESSELS.

F. NO, AT ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL; YES, AT OPERATIONAL LEVEL, AS FOLLOWS: 6 JAPANESE ADVISORS ASSIST THE SOMAPECHE (SHRIMP) COMPANY IN MAJUNGA; 4 OR 5 KUWAITIES ASSIST THE FAMAKO(SHRIMP) COMPANY ALSO IN MAJUNGA.

G. SINGLE SIDE BAND RADIOS ARE PERMITTED ABOARD COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS.

H. ALL 36 MODERN FISHING VESSELS NOW USE JAPANESE SINGLE SIDE BAND RADIOS & JAPANESE OR NORWEGIAN FISH FINDING EQUIPMENT (TRY-NET, ECHO-SOUNDING EQUIPMENT).

5. EMBASSY WISHES TO DRAW USDOC'S ATTENTION TO OUR VIEWS TRANSMITTED IN PARA 5 REF B. IN PARTICULAR, WE MUST CAUTION COMMERCE THAT A TRADE MISSION WOULD HAVE TO SPEND AT VERY LEAST 4 DAYS IN THE COUNTRY TO VISIT APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT FISHERIES OFFICIALS IN ANTANANARIVO & THE MAJOR COMMERCIAL FISHING CENTERS OF MAJUNGA & NOSSI-BE. ADDITIONALLY, AS ALSO STATED IN REF B. EMBASSY'S ONLY ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICER WILL BE REPLACED DURING THE SUMMER OF 1978 AND IT THEREFORE

VERY POSSIBLE THAT IN JULY OR AUGUST 1978, THERE WILL BE NO
ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICER ON DUTY, WITH ALL EMBASSY FUNCTIONS
BEING HANDLED BY THE TWO REMAINING FSO'S. THUS EMBASSY
REITERATES THAT NO MAJOR TRADE PROMOTION EVENT CAN BE
SCHEDULED FOR JULY OR AUGUST 1978. BARRETT

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